

Excerpts from Kim Chi Ha's  
statement before the military  
tribunal which sentenced him  
to death:

The only way to save our people is to bring down  
the dictatorship of the present government. The  
students are our only hope . . . I may have violated  
the emergency decrees of the President (outlawing  
dissent), but I don't believe that I have violated the  
National Security Law (prohibiting Communist  
subversion) . . . I did everything to help the students.  
I did not have any money, so I helped by talking with  
them. Demonstrations are only part of the student  
movement. The discussion and projection of one's  
ideas are also part . . . Standing up despite one's  
chains is a form of resistance . . . I wrote the poem  
*Five Bandits* . . . The corrupt government officials  
whom I criticized in *Five Bandits* are being punished.  
This result should rightly be attributed to my liter-  
ary work. . . .

(Statement cut off by the presiding judge)



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## STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT KIM CHI HA

On July 9, 1974, the death penalty was asked for Korean  
poet Kim Chi Ha, who stood before a military tribunal ac-  
cused of violating his country's National Security Law.

We who have come to know and respect Kim Chi Ha  
through his poetic works protest his execution.

Kim Chi Ha's writings and participation in his nation's  
movement for democracy accord with his ideals as a man  
and his faith as a Christian. We believe that the protest  
voiced by Kim Chi Ha and those imprisoned with him is  
proper to men who seek release from a state of poverty  
and oppression like that prevalent in South Korea today.

We therefore ask that Chung Hee Park, President of the  
Republic of South Korea, hear the cry of the people ex-  
pressed in Kim Chi Ha's works and release both the poet  
and those of his friends imprisoned with him.

Frank Allaun  
Willy Brandt  
Noam Chomsky  
Jerome Cohen  
Dorothy Day  
Nicola Geiger  
Lena Jeger  
Murray Levin  
Louis Malle  
Francois Manessier  
Ian Mikardo  
Joseph Needham  
Jean Pouillon  
Edwin Reischauer  
Jean-Paul Sartre  
Renee Short  
Edward Wagner  
Howard Zinn

Aochi Shin  
Amorn Chandarasomboon  
Endo Shusaku  
Hirayama Teruji  
Kim Dar-su  
Kim Sok-pom  
Prathuang Kirtiputra  
Lee Chin-hee  
Miyahara Akio  
Nakano Yoshio  
Oda Makoto  
Oe Kenzaburo  
Olarn Chäipravat  
Shibata So  
Singtoh Changtrakul  
Tsurumi Shunusuke  
Ui Jun  
Yun Hak-jun

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### CRY OF THE PEOPLE AND OTHER POEMS

Kim Chi Ha

INTRODUCTION BY NICOLA GEIGER

4¾ x 7, 112 pages, perfectbound, paper

\$2.95, November 1974

(formerly titled: Five Bandits, Groundless Rumours)

Willy Brandt, Noam Chomsky, Dorothy Day, Louis Malle, Edwin Reischauer, Jean-Paul Sartre, and other leading intellectuals, artists and political thinkers rallied to the cause of Kim Chi Ha, Korean poet, who stood before a military tribunal for violating his country's National Security Law.

He was sentenced to death.

Kim Chi Ha's fiery verse, as Nicola Geiger points out in her eloquent introduction to the book, is deeply rooted in centuries of the long and tragic history of the Korean people. His voice is the very soul of the Korean people as such expresses anger, pride, and humor. Like all great voices there is a cosmic laughter and distance in his words. "My problem is nothing. I'm not a Solzhenitsyn, you know. I'm Kim Chi Ha. Not a tragic figure. A comic, like these bad teeth of mine. I feel happy in any situation. But the chance to write freely, that's what I hope for now."

Kim Chi Ha's special target is the corrupt South Korean government (big business, politicians, top bureaucrats, cabinet ministers, generals). ~~November 11, 1973~~, in a Seoul YMCA coffee-shop, Kim Chi Ha and other South Korean intellectuals met to read a statement denouncing President Park Chung Hee's polite state and made a demand for a return to democracy. Kim and others were arrested. World intellectual leaders, including Herbert Marcuse, protested his detention. Three months later he was released. Kim's satiric and angry poetry passed from hand to hand among young intellectuals and anti-establishment activists. Kim was then arrested for organizing a strike against General Park and was sentenced to death (later the charge was changed to life imprisonment).

The Establishment was trying to mute his voice. Yet his voice can't be silenced. The fierce verses are rallying cries for those of all nations fighting oppression. Often dissident poetry serves a function, but is not art. Kim Chi Ha's poetry is art and grows out of an artist's soul and speaks as art and salvation to the souls of all men in all times.

dates wrong